



## *Iowa Outdoors*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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**April 25, 2006**

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### **STATE PARK VISITORS BENEFIT FROM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

DES MOINES – Many state parks had improvements in 2005 that are easily recognizable. From the renovation of the historic cabins at Palisades-Kepler to the new roads at Green Valley, park visitors can see what all the work was about.

Unlike last year’s projects, the park improvements scheduled for this summer will be behind the scenes. Many 2006 projects involve improvements to park infrastructure are necessary and will benefit the park, but on a less glamorous level.

“A lot of these projects are not too exciting but go a long way in benefiting water quality, protecting the natural resources and making the overall experience a good one for our state park visitors,” said Angela Corio, landscape architect for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Much of the new work focuses on wastewater system upgrades. At Lake Darling, crews are wrapping up the new nearly \$800,000 wastewater treatment system that will serve the entire park. The campground at Lake Darling is expected to re-open on June 1.

Pleasant Creek State Recreation area near Cedar Rapids will receive a new wastewater lagoon system, and Summerset State Park, near Indianola, will have a new restroom.

A paving project at Bellevue State Park should be completed by May 15. Paving work is also underway at Clear Lake. At nearby Ventura Lynn Lorenzen access, a new boat ramp is under construction and a new restroom, and an enlarged paved parking lot will follow.

Two cabins were added to Stone State Park, near Sioux City. The local friends group partnered with the Iowa DNR and received money from the Iowa Values Fund to install the cabins. The cabins were constructed from kits built by inmates at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Anamosa, by L&L Builders, of Sioux City, who donated the labor. There will be a new water supply well and water lines at the park.

At Black Hawk State Park, near Lake View, an old CCC house was converted into a four bedroom family style rental cabin. "It's beautiful. It's the largest available at any state park," Corio said.

Campground improvements at Elk Rock, near Knoxville, and Black Hawk state parks should be completed soon. Corio said the project at Elk Rock includes increasing the number of electrical sites and improving the camping pads at the equestrian and non-equestrian campgrounds scheduled to be completed in May. Camping at Black Hawk State Park will only be available on a first come, first serve basis during 2006 due to the campground improvement project planned to begin this fall.

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## **FOOD PLOTS BENEFIT PHEASANTS AND OTHER WILDLIFE**

BOONE – Many species of Iowa wildlife depend on corn, sorghum and other grain food plots to survive each winter. As the spring planting season hits full swing, now is the time to begin planning food plots for next winter.

Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, said well designed food plots provided important cover and food to pheasants, quail and other wildlife during the significant snowfall last December.

"There have been few documented cases of pheasants actually starving to death in Iowa," Bogenschutz said. "Virtually all of Iowa's winter mortality is attributed to severe winter storms with the birds freezing to death."

So why plant food plots for pheasants if they seldom starve in winter? First, food plots provide winter habitat as well as food. In fact, if properly designed and large

enough, the habitat created by a food plot is much more beneficial to wildlife than the food itself. Second, food plots allow pheasants to obtain a meal quickly thereby limiting their exposure to predators and maximizing their energy reserves.

“If hens have good fat supplies coming out of the winter, they are more likely to nest successfully,” said Bogenschutz. “Food plots also provide habitat and food for many other species like deer, turkey, partridge, squirrels and songbirds.”

Bogenschutz offered the following suggestions for planning food plots for pheasants:

1. Corn and sorghum grains provide the most reliable food source throughout the winter as they resist lodging in heavy snows. Pheasants prefer corn to sorghum, although sorghum provides better winter habitat. Sorghum is also less attractive to deer.
2. Place food plots away from tall deciduous trees, that provide raptors with a place sit and watch food plots, and next to wetlands, CRP fields, and multi-row shrub-conifer shelterbelts that provide good winter habitat.
3. Size of food plots depends upon where they are placed. If the plot is next to good winter cover the smaller (2-acre minimum) the plot can be. If winter cover is marginal, like a road ditch, then plots must be larger (5 to 10 acres) to provide cover as well as food.
4. Depending on the amount of use some food plots can be left for two years. The weedy growth that follows in the second year provides excellent nesting, brood rearing and winter habitat for pheasants and other upland wildlife. Food plots that have heavy deer use generally need to be replanted every year.

Cost-share assistance or seed for food plot establishment is available from most county Pheasants Forever chapters or local co-ops. People can also contact their local wildlife biologist for information on how to establish and design food plots that benefit wildlife.

**For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.**

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## **IOWA CLEAN RIVERS TEAM TO CLEAN UP THE NORTH RACCOON RIVER**

After a summer of participating in any river cleanup he could, Don Propst developed a dream: to make his life's work cleaning up Iowa's rivers.

“I enjoy floating down the rivers of Iowa, but it bothers me to see how inconsiderate some people are towards our precious natural resources, with little or no regard for fellow human beings or wildlife,” says Propst, a retired sprinkler system and safety installer who lives in Des Moines.

Nate Hooegeveen, Iowa DNR Water Trails coordinator, worked with Propst to develop a program within the non-profit Iowa Whitewater Coalition. The Iowa Clean Rivers Team was born. Propst believed a two-pronged approach was necessary. First, the rivers needed a long-term commitment to get tires, appliances, old farm implements and other large trash out of them. Second, he knew that others needed to be involved in order to cultivate local commitments to keep rivers clean, prevent neighbors from dumping illegally, and promote better water quality. As a member of the North Raccoon Watershed Association, he also knew he wanted to target the North Raccoon for his first project.

“So far, everyone’s really supported this program,” says Propst. “It has developed quickly into reality, with a lot of help from a lot of people.”

But Propst saw several barriers, too. Insurance would be expensive, for instance. So would fuel. He wasn’t sure how to raise funds, or make the public aware he was coming. He needed a boat larger than a canoe for the largest trash. Developing a plan that includes the value of labor Propst plans to donate, it was apparent that the Clean Rivers Team program would need to be a nearly \$50,000 program.

Propst, with assistance from the DNR AmeriCorps program, began developing connections and reaching out to the Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land volunteer network. Iowa Heartland RC&D, a U.S. Department of Agriculture-sponsored non-profit organization, was able to establish Propst’s program as an Earth Team project, which will help insure the event. Grant funds, including \$5,000 from Keep Iowa Beautiful, \$2,500 from Metro Waste Authority, \$1,000 from Izaak Walton League will assist the effort. Individuals and banks in the watershed, as well as the North Raccoon Watershed Association, are also making contributions.

Recently, Propst used funds to purchase a flat-bottomed boat and motor. His friend Dennis Zeliad will help him throughout the season. They will be capable of more quickly removing large items and cleaning up dumpsites with the boat. A photo of Propst is available at [www.iowawhitewater.org/crteam.html](http://www.iowawhitewater.org/crteam.html).

Three events this spring and summer will involve any volunteers who want to help. The first of these is in the Des Moines area (details below), another will be near Sac City in July, and the final will be in Carroll and Greene counties in September.

### **Help Propst Clean-up the Raccoon River**

**When:** 9 a.m., to 5 p.m., May 20

**Where:** Booneville Boat Access on Highway F90, Booneville

**What:** Volunteers will be picking up trash on the Raccoon River via canoes. Bring your own canoe, paddle, PFD, proper clothing, gloves, hat, drinking water, lunch, and any personal items needed. Must be 14 years of age to participate. A parental signature is required for those 14-18 years of age.

**Other Comments:** Volunteers will paddle from Booneville to Walnut Woods State Park. Meet at boat ramp in Booneville at 9 a.m. and shuttle cars to Walnut Woods State Park.

**Sponsoring Organization:** Clean Rivers Team / Iowa Whitewater Coalition

**Event Contact:** Don Propst

**Phone:** 515-265-8733

**e-mail:** [dpsprftr@netscape.com](mailto:dpsprftr@netscape.com)

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## **IOWA SNOW SHOERS TAKE ON NATIONALS**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Barring a late April snowstorm, winter is just a memory; a white December; mostly brown in January, February and March. Not much snow for Iowa's cross country skiers, snowmobilers...*and snowshoers*.

Snow Shoes? There might not have been much white stuff to shuffle across, but that didn't stop three snowshoers from making tracks in the U.S. National Snowshoe Championship, in Bolton Valley, Vt.

The March 24-26 field was packed with entries from the Snow Belt; Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, Vermont, New York, Canada, but the guys from Iowa are turning a few heads among snowshoeing's elite these days.

"Snowshoers from Wisconsin and Minnesota are pretty proud of their outdoor tradition (but) when we finished 1-2 at the Midwest championships, the guy at the (finish line) microphone was like, 'here he comes; all the way from Iowa.' It raises a few eyebrows," smiled Kasey Schmitt, recalling the meet that qualified him, Scott Gall and Curt Krieger for the Nationals. And it carried over in Vermont. Gall finished sixth at nationals, with Schmitt 41<sup>st</sup> and Krieger 49<sup>th</sup> among the 156 Open division qualifiers.

Schmitt, 25, Gall and Krieger are all from Cedar Falls, where Schmitt is the director of college ministry at Heartland Vineyard Church, in Cedar Falls. A 1999 graduate of Solon High School, there was no snowshoeing on his outdoors resume until a

couple years ago. “I started running triathlons early that year. When winter came, Scott (Gall) introduced me to snowshoeing as a way to cross train through the winter. If you can run, you can snowshoe,” explained Schmitt. “It’s a way to break up the monotony. You usually have the timber to yourself. Not that many people get outside and off the roads in the winter.”

Racing snowshoes are about 22 inches long; a little longer than the more square design people might recognize. They feature deep claws on the bottom for biting into snow. Of course, most competitors in the Great White North actually practice *on* snow. In this winter that almost wasn’t, though, the Iowans had to make do with what little Nature provided. “You normally strap them on over running shoes,” explained Schmitt. “When there’s no snow, you drop the snowshoes and it just becomes a trail race.”

Short of the deep snowdrifts most of us try to avoid, running is the best way to train. Yet, training in Iowa leaves a little to be desired. “The first two miles of nationals were all uphill. There’s no way to truly be ready for that when you train around here,” Schmitt admitted. “It forces you to lift your knees higher and keep your feet a little farther apart. A 10k (6.2 miles) snowshoe race is about like a half marathon (13+ miles) on the road.”

Except for the Currier & Ives setting, most serious runners would feel right at home in a snowshoe race. The set up mirrors a typical road race; the registration, the age groups, even running bibs. Most ‘elite’ shoers are in the 28-35 age categories, similar to the top road racers. The atmosphere, though, is dialed up a notch or two. “The people are a lot more serious about their activity. It’s more like a triathlon ‘community’,” compared Schmitt. “(Especially at the nationals), the level of competition is through the roof. A lot of big time triathletes are there. That’s their cold weather training. At the same time, there’s kind of a ‘brotherhood.’ If you need a place to stay, you’ve got one.”

For now, the outlook for snow is dim. That means back to wearing out shoe leather for Schmitt and the Iowa contingent. Come November, though, it’s ‘watch the forecast and pray for snow’...and a tailwind.

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## **TREE AND SHRUBS SEEDLINGS STILL AVAILABLE**

AMES - Although spring is quickly progressing, there is still time to order trees and shrubs for reforestation, wildlife habitat or to control soil erosion for the acreage or farm. Trees and shrubs are most successful if planting is completed by mid to late May, and planting conditions are currently favorable.

“We have excellent supplies at the State Forest Nursery of native red, white, bur and swamp oak, silver maple, dogwood, wild plum and many other species,” said John

Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau. “These native trees and shrubs are adapted to Iowa’s extremes in weather, to Iowa’s soils and provide superior wildlife habitat.”

Planting seedlings for conservation purposes need not be expensive. State Forest Nursery conservation trees and shrubs are for sale at the cost of production. Prices range from \$25 per 100 plants for evergreen species such as white pine to \$45 per 100 plants for hardwood trees and shrubs like the oaks and redosier dogwood. The minimum order is 500 plants.

“If you are new at conservation plantings or if 500 plants is too much, we have created a smaller, 200 plant “Create Your Own” wildlife packet. You can choose up to 4 different species in units of 50 plants that will cover about ¼ to ½ acre of land for \$90, plus \$10 for shipping. If you have a large backyard, consider trying our Song Bird Packet of 20 trees and shrubs for \$20 that includes shipping to your door,” Walkowiak said.

For more information or to order conservation trees and shrubs, call 1-800-865-2477 or [www.iowatreeplanting.com](http://www.iowatreeplanting.com)

For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515 242-5966  
[john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us)

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## **FINAL PRAIRIE RESCUE EVENT SET FOR LEDGES STATE PARK**

DES MOINES – Nature lovers have one last chance to save a prairie during Prairie Rescue 2006, as the program comes to a close next weekend with a final event at Ledges State Park.

Join other volunteers on May 6 for a day of wildflower planting hosted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Prairie Seed Harvest Team. The workday will last from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Volunteers can join for an hour or throughout the day.

Lunch will be provided at noon. Look for DNR trucks near the campground and park office at Ledges (1519 250<sup>th</sup> St., Madrid).

In addition to the final event, look for two rescues yet to occur this week. Big Creek State Park and Cedar Bluffs State Preserve will both hold events on April 29. Visit [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html) for details about these and other events.

The rescues are part of the seventh annual Iowa Statewide Prairie Rescue, a sequence of roughly 25 events held from late March through early May. The events give volunteers a chance to help save what remains of Iowa's dwindling prairie grassland. Rescues involve invasive species removal, seed planting and other maintenance tasks.

This year, the rescues also commemorate Aldo Leopold, who advocated public understanding and protection of the environment. Governor Tom Vilsack recently signed a proclamation making April "Aldo Leopold Month" in honor of the Iowa-born naturalist.

Native grasslands once covered 70-percent of the Iowa's soil but has been reduced to 0.1-percent of their original size. The remnants, scattered in small patches throughout the state, now require professional and volunteer assistance to survive.

**For more information, contact Sarah West at [Sarah.West@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Sarah.West@dnr.state.ia.us) or at (515) 281- 6271 or Cathy Engstrom at [cengstrom@inhf.org](mailto:cengstrom@inhf.org) or at (515) 288-1846.**

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## **A BIG "THANK YOU" TO KEEPERS OF THE LAND VOLUNTEERS**

DES MOINES — In honor of National Volunteer Recognition Week, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers a resounding "thank you" to its dedicated volunteers.

Across the state, participants in the DNR's Keepers of the Land volunteer program donated an extraordinary amount of time and hard work to the state's natural resources.

Over the past two years, more than 123,000 volunteers served in excess of 306,000 hours helping to clean lakes and rivers, beautify parks, monitor pollution and benefit the environment in countless other ways. To put those numbers in perspective: since 2004, a volunteer force exceeding the population of Cedar Rapids has logged nearly 35 years worth of service hours.

Estimating the value of a volunteer hour at \$14.19 (according to the Independent Sector), that service is worth more than \$4.3 million dollars.

"The numbers speak for themselves," said Keepers of the Land Director Merry Rankin. "The contributions of our volunteers are invaluable and add exponentially to the success in achieving the department's mission."



In addition, DNR volunteers benefit all Iowans by enhancing and preserving the state's natural resources, for present and future generations, Rankin said.

This year's National Volunteer Recognition Week, sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, began April 23 and runs until April 29, with the theme "Inspire by Example."

Please visit [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org) for information about the many Keepers of the Land volunteer projects. Upcoming projects include the 2007 Statewide Prairie Rescue occurring through the first week of May, Operation ReLeaf community forestry events in April and May, and the fourth annual Project AWARE river cleanup, set to tackle the Iowa and English Rivers from June 17 to 24. Also look for our online events calendar.

**For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at [Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us). Note to editors: Please contact us to find out about local volunteer projects in your area.**

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of April 25, 2006**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** The water temperatures at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 61 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 12.05 feet. Water levels are expected to drop over the next several days. Fishing continues to be fair for walleye and sauger on jigs tipped with minnows in the tailwaters below dams 15 to 19. Anglers report that fishing for channel catfish continues to be good in the backwaters and the mouths of tributary rivers and streams. White bass fishing has been good on jigs, spinners and minnows. Crappie and bluegill fishing has been good/fair in the backwaters....try Andalusia in **Pool 16**, Big Timber Area in **Pool 17** and Lake Odessa in **Pools 17 to 18**.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): Anglers are starting to pick up some nice crappies in the horseshoe bend area in the shallow water around the trees. Catfishing is also good along the sandy shorelines as the water warms during the day.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Anglers are picking up catfish and bluegills along the rocky shorelines. Crappies are still in 10 feet of water. Maybe by this weekend with continued warm weather they will come in.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Bluegills are biting in the shallow waters of the upper end and the bays. Catfish are working the riprap along the dam looking for crayfish and small bluegills.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing remains good in 4 to 8 feet of water using small pieces of night crawler or garden worms. Anglers are also picking up some nice catfish where the marsh enters the lake. Bass anglers should concentrate on the upper end of the lake around the habitat and the creek channel.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs fished in 8 to 10 feet of water around brush piles and other submerged structure.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been biting on small jigs. Largemouth bass have been hitting crankbaits and spinner baits.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Crappies have been biting on small jigs fished around the face of the dam and also in the stumps. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler along the face of the dam.

**Lake Keomah** (Mahaska): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Anglers are having good success with crappies from shore and from boats. Jig and minnows and minnows under bobbers are working well. The causeway and brush piles are the hotspots. Stick to depths of less than 10 feet. A few walleyes are also being caught after dark.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Crappies have moved shallow to spawn and are very willing to bite. Bluegill and redears are also being caught. Small jigs are working for all three species for anglers fishing from shore and boat.

**Hannen Lake** (Benton): Bluegills and a few nice crappies are being caught. The fish are starting to move in shallower due to the warming water. Try small jigs or wax worms for best results (remember, no minnows allowed in Hannen).

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): Crappies are heading shallow and are being caught in the brush piles in 10 feet of water or less. Minnows or jigs and wax worms are working best. Walleyes and largemouth bass are also being caught off the dam. Try for the walleyes after dark.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): Catfishing remains good. Concentrate at the mouths of the feeder creeks and use minnows or night crawlers for bait.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): Anglers are doing well on catfish using shad guts and minnows. Fish where sandbars drop off into deeper water.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pool 9 to 15:** River stage on Monday was around 11 feet at Guttenberg and Bellevue was at 12.4 feet on a slow, steady fall with a temperature of 59 degrees. As the water level falls, fishing conditions will steadily improve. Many fish species are beginning to bite as the water temperature warms. Nice sized freshwater drum have bit consistently this spring. Simple rigs with worms and sliding egg sinkers have been the most effective. Drum are being caught in the tailwaters at Lynxville (**Pool 10**) and Guttenberg (**Pool 11**), but can also be found in many other places with moderate current in **Pools 9 to 11**. Smaller *fiddler* channel catfish are being taken on stink bait and

worms in some of the major side channel areas. Good places to fish for channel *cats* include Minnesota Slough, near New Albin (**Pool 9**), Cassville Slough, near Guttenberg (**Pool 11**) and the side channels and downstream sides of islands in **Pools 12 to 15**. Panfish, including crappies, bluegills and yellow perch, are biting with some regularity in the tailwater areas near Lynxville (**Pool 10**) and Guttenberg (**Pool 11**). A worm suspended under a bobber works best for panfish. White bass have been hitting on small spinners in the Harpers Slough emergency spillway near Harpers Ferry (**Pool 10**). Largemouth bass are starting to bite in the backwaters of **Pools 12 to 15** on soft plastics.

**Upper Iowa** (Winneshiek and Allamakee) and **Turkey** (Clayton) **rivers**: Sucker fishing is good to excellent. Water levels remain high, but clarity is improving on these rivers.

**Cedar** and **Shell Rock rivers** (Bremer and Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting good on dead minnows or night crawlers fished on the bottom along flooded shorelines.

**Maquoketa** and **North Fork Maquoketa rivers** (Delaware and Dubuque): Smallmouth bass are hitting soft plastic baits.

**Big Woods Lake, East Lake, Fisher Lake** and **South Prairie Lake** (Black Hawk): Anglers are catching a few crappies. On cloudy days, try fishing a minnow under a slip bobber in 8 to 10 feet of water around structure. On sunny days, fish shallower water along the shoreline. Bluegill fishing is fair and will pick up as water temperatures rise.

**Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Crappies are biting well on minnows fished in 8 to 10 feet of water under a slip bobber. You might also try jigging an ice jig tipped with a wax worm for crappies. Bluegill fishing is good using wax worms or night crawlers fished around structure. Fishing for channel catfish is excellent fishing the flats in 4 to 6 feet of water using dead minnows or cut baits.

**Meyer Lake** (Winneshiek), **Lake Hendricks** (Howard) and **Volga Lake** (Fayette): Fishing has been very slow; but many anglers are enjoying just being on the water.

**Sweet Marsh Lake** (Bremer): Crappie fishing is fair to good in the canal and along the rocky shorelines by the dike.

**Trout** fishing is excellent. Strong caddis and mayfly hatches are occurring on the streams. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

## **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): A few crappies are being caught around Buffalo Run and Templar Park from shore using small tube and hair jigs. Bullheads are being caught at the North Grade. Fishing is slow for largemouth and smallmouth bass. The main activity is around shallow reeds for largemouth, and rock piles for smallmouth.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching lots of bluegills, and a few crappies, fishing in the canals. Fish near any stump, dock or floating mat of **vegetation with small flies or ice jigs tipped with a garden worm, under a bobber.**

**East Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): White bass are being caught around the bridges and below the spillway. Try white minnow imitating baits or small inline spinners.

**Lower Gar/Minnewashta lakes** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching walleyes in the evening casting jigs with soft plastics near areas with some current. Most walleyes are between 10 and 16 inches. Remember, there is a 14-inch minimum length on walleyes.

**Center Lake** (Dickinson): Walleyes are being caught on the south shore in the evenings. Some panfish are being caught on the sound end of the lake.

**Little Spirit Lake** – Iowa side (Dickinson): The bullhead action is starting to pick up at the north end, with some huge fish seen.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): A few walleyes are being caught in the evening using minnows under a bobber or jigs tipped with minnows. Most fish are between 12 and 16 inches.

**Silver Lake** (Palo Alto): Fishing is good for 10 to 12-inch bullheads using night crawlers.

**Five Island Lake** (Palo Alto): Walleye fishing is good in the evening casting twisters and traditional walleye baits. Channel catfish fishing is good using traditional baits.

**Lost Island Lake** (Clay and Palo Alto): Good opportunities exist for quality black crappies in the area south of the bridge. Fish the submerged brush along the south shore and the rock face by the outlet structure. Good numbers of large channel catfish are also in the same area. Fish the face of the outlet structure using traditional catfish baits.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Small crappies are being caught from the pier with small jigs.

**Rock River** (Lyon): A few catfish are being caught at Rock Island Park on night crawlers.

**Brushy Creek** (Webster): A few bass and bluegills have moved into shallow water along shore and in the bays. Anglers are starting to pick up a few walleyes off the jetties. The deeper water of the main lake remains cold.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): A few big yellow bass are hitting along the shoreline, but a few warm days are needed to really bring these fish in. Walleye fishing has been good in the evening with a jig and leech. Lots of fish below the 15-inch minimum length, but a few keepers are being seen. Fishing has been good for 8 to 9-inch bullheads.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Fishing has slowed for walleyes, but a few are being caught along shore.

**North Twin Lake** (Calhoun): Anglers are catching some yellow bass along with a few crappies and bluegills.

**Arrowhead Lake** (Sac): Fishing is good for medium sized bluegills using a 1-64 ounce black leadhead in the cover near shore.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is fair. Male walleyes are still on the shallow rocky shorelines and reefs. Fish these rocky areas in the mornings and evenings for the best action. Jig and minnows are producing the best. Yellow bass fishing has been fair fishing near the island, Dodge's Point, the outlet area and the north shore rush beds.

Use small jigs, minnows and cut bait for the best action. White bass are being caught while fishing for yellow bass. Bullhead fishing is good at the Ventura Grade and Ventura Access.

**Rice Lake** (Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom.

**Crystal Lake** (Hancock): Bullhead fishing is good. Fish the shorelines in the evening for the best action. Channel catfish are hitting on night crawlers, dead chubs and chicken liver.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

### **Southwest**

**Don Williams** (Boone): Fishing is good for crappies using jigs and minnows in 10 to 15 feet of water over structure. Channel catfish are being caught using liver.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using worms and bobbers, and bluegill fishing has been slow. Largemouth bass fishing is picking up, particularly around the rockier areas.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using jigs and minnows with the better areas near the dam and in the east arm of the lake. Anglers report catching smaller walleye with jigs and minnows, with some nicer size fish.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Fishing is good for 8 to 9-inch crappies using jigs and minnows suspended in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill fishing is fair. Several walleye have been reported, with some more than 15 inches. Largemouth bass fishing is fair along the rocky areas. Channel catfish fishing has been good with night crawlers.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass/wiper and walleye fishing has been good using jigs and/or minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good in the river and in the tailwater ponds with minnows and night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been good in the tailwater ponds with jigs and minnows.

**Below Scott Street Dam** (Polk): Anglers are catching 8 to 12-inch white bass on twisters.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Crappie fishing is good using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish in the 10 to 15 pound range are being caught on cut bait.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Fishing is fair for white bass and walleye using jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has also picked up with some nice fish caught.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Crappie fishing is starting to improve. Bluegill fishing has been slow to fair, with activity around the fishing house. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair, although most fish caught are below the legal length limit.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Crappie fishing is slow to fair with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing, although picking up, is slow to fair. Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area.

**Farm Ponds:** Bluegills are good on night crawlers in 3 to 5 feet of water. Crappie and largemouth bass fishing is good.

**Green Valley** (Union): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and dead minnows in shallow, warm coves. Several crappies can be caught from shore and over

cover on jigs and minnows. Some bluegill can be caught using jigs and night crawlers in 6 to 8 feet of water near cover.

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and stink baits in the upper half over the open flats. Bluegill and crappie can be caught in 6 to 10 feet of water over cover with jigs, night crawlers or minnows.

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught with night crawlers or stink baits in the shallows.

**Binder Reservoir** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught in the coves and the upper end using night crawlers or stink baits.

**West Lenox** (Taylor): Crappie can be caught from shore in 5 to 8 feet of water using small jigs or night crawlers

**Little River** (Decatur): Crappie can be caught in the rocks or near cover on minnows or jigs. Anglers are catching some walleyes by trolling the points with night crawlers.

**Wilson Lake** (Taylor): Crappie can be caught from the dam.

**Windmill Lake** (Taylor): Bluegills are biting in the corners of the dam and from the coves.

**West Osceola** (Clarke): Large numbers of 8-inch crappie can be caught from the dam area and the backs of the coves. The lake is 50 inches low. Use caution when using the east main ramp.

**Grade Lake** (Clarke): Crappie can be caught in 6 to 8 feet of water or from the dam.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for 2 to 3 pound channel catfish and for 1 to 2 pound bullheads on night crawlers. A few crappies are being caught along the shoreline.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Crappies are being caught along shore. A few bluegills can be caught using jigs tipped with night crawlers.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish are being caught on night crawlers in shallow areas. Greenfield and Nodaway have low water levels. The best fishing from shore would be off the dam.

**Meadow** (Adair): A few crappies are being caught along shoreline using minnows.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Crappie fishing is fair using minnows on east bay under the road. A few channel catfish are being caught using night crawlers.

**Anita** (Cass): Lake is still 5 foot low and has limited shoreline access. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Wiper fishing is fair on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Walleye fishing has slowed. Crappie fishing is starting to pick up in lagoon area. Largemouth bass are being picked up on the west side of lake.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows on the upper end of the lake.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**